

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 8-15, of which claims 8-11, 14 and 15 are independent. Claims 1-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Claims 14 and 15 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that dependent claims 8-10 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, each of claims 8-10 has been rewritten into independent form and is therefore now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate all of the features of dependent claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that claim 11 has been placed in condition for allowance by incorporating the subject matter of claim 10.

New claims 14 and 15 are independent claims which are believed to incorporate the salient subject matter of claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, for reasons that claims 8 and 9 were deemed to recite patentable subject matter and to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, new claims 14 and 15 are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims in this application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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